

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE


1 JAMES A. HELLBUSCH AND DALE L. PLUGGE, the above-named petitioners,
declare that they are citizens of the United States with the post office and residence
addresses of 2106 Maple Road, Columbus, NE 68601 and 2810 38th Street, Columbus,
NE 68601; that they verily believe themselves to be the original, first, and co-inventors
of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention
entitled BRINE MAKER described and claimed in the annexed specification; that they
do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United
States of America before their invention thereof or patented or described in any printed
publication in any country before their invention thereof, or more than one year prior to
this application; that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an
inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to
the United States of America or an application filed by them or their legal
representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application; that they
have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification
including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the oath
or declaration; that they acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material
to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal
Regulations 1.56(a); and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this
invention has been filed by them, or their legal representatives or assigns in any country
foreign to the United States of America except as identified below:

None.

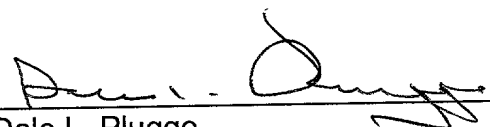
And they hereby appoint ZARLEY, McKEE, THOMTE, VOORHEES & SEASE,
Customer No. 22,885, 801 Grand Avenue, Suite 3200, Des Moines, Iowa 50309,
telephone: (402) 392-2280, as their attorneys to prosecute this application and to
transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

The undersigned petitioners further declare that all statements made herein of
their own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are
believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge
that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or
imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and
that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application of any
patent issuing thereon.

Date 10-2-01


James A. Hellbusch
2106 Maple Road
Columbus, NE 68601

Date OCT. 2 2001


Dale L. Plugge
1920 28th Street
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